

Animal Care & Control

December 2002

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Home for the Holidays Update By Ed Boks

Inside this issue:

Big Fix, Big Success!	2
Thanking a Friend	2
Pictures of Big Fix	3
Dog Shootings article	4
AC&C's TLC Program	5
AC&C Wish List	5
Holiday Food Drive	5
Volunteer Program	6
Dear AC&C:	6
AC&C & Coyotes Partner	7
Thrift Store Open!	7
Perfect Stocking Stuffer	8

What a year!

Maricopa County's annual pet euthanasia rate (year to date) is at an all time low, 9.1 animals per 1000 residents. That is down from nearly 30 animals per 1000 residents just a few years ago. The sad news is that this number still represents 28,208 animals. The good news is that this is the lowest number in our history. This is also the first time ever we were below 30,000 euthanasias for a twelve month period!

It is our expectation that we have turned a significant corner and this is the beginning of a sustained downward trend.

Pet adoptions are up to 7 animals per 1000 residents, double where we were just a few short years

ago. This may be the highest adoption rate in the country, neck and neck with the San Francisco area.

Without question though, AC&C remains the number one pet adoption agency in the world with nearly 22,000 adoptions projected in 2002.

AC&C's Second Annual **Home for the Holidays** campaign is underway. It began last month to accomplish three strategic objectives: 1) *to promote animal adoptions so no animal is homeless during the holiday season,* 2) *to promote responsible pet guardianship so no animal becomes homeless during the holidays, and* 3) *to promote involvement in*

animal causes during the holiday through volunteerism and donations.

With respect to objective 1:

1,562 animals were adopted in the November segment of our *Home for the Holidays* campaign. That number was equaled only once before, and that was in last year's first annual *Home for the Holidays* campaign. AC&C realized an 8% increase in adoptions in November 01 and 02 over previous Novembers.

Of course, adoptions help drive down our euthanasia numbers. We had an 8% decrease in our November numbers compared to previous No-

(Continued on page 6)

MEL'S FUND Created to Support Human/Animal Bond Program's for Children

On Wednesday, November 27, 2002, Friends of Animal Care & Control announced the creation of **Mel's Fund**, dedicated to honoring the life of **Mel Brunner**.

Mr. Brunner was a passionate advocate and volunteer for animal welfare who devoted much of his time to raising funds to support local animal welfare organizations. Deeply committed to ending the senseless euthanasia of adoptable animals in our community, he was particularly interested in educating children about responsible pet ownership and in supporting programs that foster the human/animal bond.

Mel's Fund will support the AC&C "Teaching Love and

Compassion" program, which partners at-risk children with shelter dogs for a four week period during which they care for, train and prepare the dog for a new home, while learning about themselves. The program, which builds self-esteem, as well as develops compassion, empathy, responsibility and respect for all living things, has been successfully piloted in the Mesa School District. Current goals include expanding it to additional schools in the metro Phoenix area.

**Donations to Mel's Fund can be mailed to: Friends of Animal Care & Control
P.O. Box 80739
Phoenix, Arizona 85060-0739**

Please make checks out to Friends of Animal Care & Control and note that the donation is directed to Mel's Fund on the memo portion of the check.

For more information on Mel's Fund and Friends of Animal Care & Control, please contact Sue Della Maddalena, President of Friends of Animal Care & Control at (602) 840-2843.

Friends of Animal Care & Control is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to support the special programs of AC&C. For more information on TLC see article on page 5. ♦

"Wonderful news. Congratulations to everyone who worked on this!"

*David Smith
Maricopa County
Chief Administration Officer
Congratulating
everyone that helped
bring a \$6 million
Maddie's Grant into
Maricopa County*



Big Fix Big Success, Again!



You get into camp about 8:00 in the evening. Just in time to find a nice quiet place to set up camp with your pooch. As evening turns into night, you snuggle into your sleeping bag for the unusually cool night, with a low of 40 degrees...

Suddenly other campers with the same idea begin to arrive. They pull up and start setting up camp too; laying out their sleeping bags, setting up lights, chairs, tables, all of them brought their pets too.

Where are all these people coming from? You look down the road and there is a steady stream of headlights heading towards this choice location.

Soon your camp site becomes a hub of activity and you realize you are at the head of what is fast becoming a very long line.

What's going on? Is this a

remote get away camp site or the location of a rock concert?

What in the world could draw so many people in the middle of the night to this remote location? For an event not scheduled to start for another seven hours, at 5:30 the next morning?

Well, the answer is obvious. It's the most popular, yet least reported event of the year end. Its AC&C's **Big Fix Spay Day** taking place at both our East and West Valley Animal Care Centers.

By 2:00 a.m. both parking lots are filled with vehicles and a line of loving pet guardians line up around our Clinics waiting for the doors to open so they can sign their pets up to be spayed or neutered!

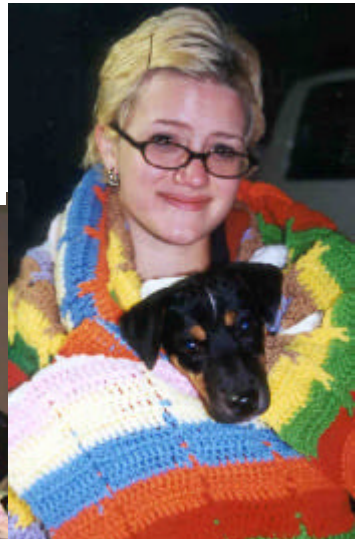
Its unfortunate, but true. AC&C has to turn nearly 500 pet owners away from this wonderful event

every quarter because we don't have enough resources do more than the first 200 pets that show up. Which explains why so many people come so early to find a place in line.

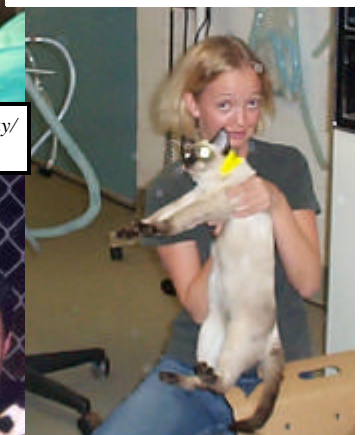
If you would like to help make sure this event continues, please send a donation to Friends of Animal Care & Control (FACCs) at PO Box 80739, Phoenix, 85060 ♦



Dr. Nuefeld surrounded by excited spay/neuter patients and their owners.



Pet guardians brave a cold winter night to ensure pets are altered.



The 1st 200 pets are spayed or neutered for free!

Thanking a True Friend of the Animals

By Mary Martin

How do you say "thank you" to a person that is always there for you, no matter how huge the request? How do you re-pay a person whose only goal in life is to help animals that cannot help themselves? How do you honor the work of a person who wishes no honor for herself but is actually grateful for allowing her the opportunity to make a difference?

I am talking about Jeanene Christ, a veterinary technician by trade; an animal advocate by avocation. Her every waking moment is dedicated to improving the lives of animals in our community.

I remember the night I met Jeanene; a horse at my house was injured severely and

Jeanene accompanied a veterinarian to help stitch up the horse's wounds. We talked about the work I do and Jeanene said she would like to volunteer. That was the beginning of a my relationship with this very talented woman.

Jeanene works full time, when she is free she goes to the shelter and assists our veterinary team caring for the sick and injured. She takes home puppies and kittens that are too young to be away from their mothers allowing them an opportunity at life. She began her own rescue group to place animals with clients that were looking to fill the void of a pet lost to old age or illness. Five times a year she shows up at AC&C at 5am to head up the intake team for our Big Fix Spay Day Event.

Jeanene is the first to arrive and the last to leave making sure every animal is carefully checked for problems that we can fix and instructing the public on how to better care for the pets in their stewardship. Our team has come to rely on Jeanene's expertise and level-headedness. If Jeanene is there we know everything will be ok!

Therefore, to Jeanene we say "THANK YOU!" Thank you for everything you do and for the wonderful human being that you are. It is an honor to call you an AC&C volunteer, New Hope partner, and most of all a very dear friend! ♦

November Spay Day Huge Success!



Vet Techs Jason Dollins & Marcus Brown prepare pet for surgery



Volunteer identifies cat for surgery



Volunteers observe cats as they recover



Volunteer Veterinarian Kleban helps tremendously



AC&C relief veterinarian Dr. Sniff & tech neuter cat



Phoenix resident gives gift of love to her best friend...



Dr. Bradley & Vet Tech Stacie Penn doing the Big Fix



Big Fix would not happen without volunteers



Citizens begin lining up at 9:00 p.m. waiting for the AC&C Clinic doors to open at 6:00 a.m. the next morning to ensure their pets are spayed or neutered.

Phoenix police hope to stem dog shootings with more training

By Christina Leonard, The Arizona Republic, Nov. 27, 2002

Police say they're trained to stop threats. And they don't necessarily distinguish between humans and animals.

But as the number of officer shootings of dogs rise, Maricopa County officials say they want to help stop it.

Phoenix police have teamed up with the county's Animal Care & Control to develop new training for police officers on how to deal with aggressive dogs. The Phoenix Police Academy, which trains officers from across the state, is still working out the details with animal control.

"Quite frankly, a lot of the time they panic," animal control spokeswoman Julie Bank said. "It becomes instinctual to shoot a dog. We're not expecting them to become animal control officers, but we want them to understand when it's appropriate to do that."



In 1999 and 2000, Phoenix police reported eight fatal dog shootings each year. That number jumped to 13 in 2001, and police have recorded 12 so far this year. Other shootings have occurred with other departments. "No police officer looks forward to killing a dog," Phoenix police Sgt. Randy Force said. "Most officers I know own dogs themselves. Officers being attacked by a dog are in a tough situation. All the training we receive and

all the equipment we are issued are designed to help us deal with human threats, not canine threats."

Lisa Hardesty, whose dog was killed by Phoenix police this summer, said the training is long overdue.

"We have an awful lot of excessive force that's being used," she said. "Why do utility people, who are not armed, seem to go in and out of the same yard with no problems?"

"There's got to be a way short of taking out your gun and start shooting."

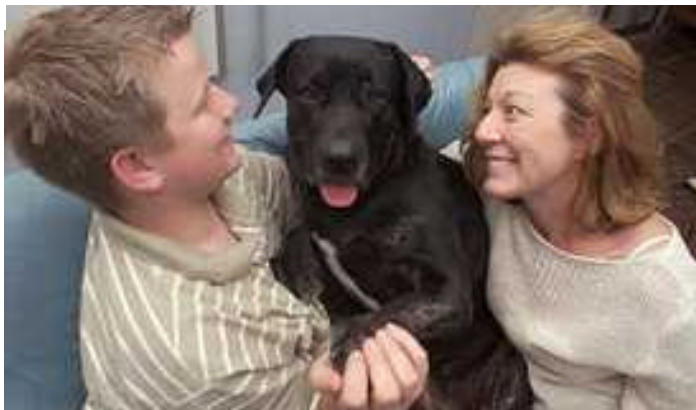
At the time her dog was shot, police and Hardesty's 10-year-old daughter, Phoebe Quigg, who witnessed the shooting, gave differing accounts of the incident.

However, it is clear that Officer Christopher Kawa shot Pete the Dog, a mixed breed, twice in the head outside Hardesty's central Phoenix home. The officer had knocked on the door, and Pete the Dog and a second dog came from the back yard and approached the officer.

Police said one dog stopped, but Pete the Dog was barking and "exposing its teeth in a threatening fashion." Hardesty said the dog just wanted to play.

Six days after the incident, Kawa was involved in another fatal dog shooting while investigating a drug case in central Phoenix. This time, Kawa told investigators that he heard a growl from a dog about a dozen feet away.

"Officer Kawa turned to his left and saw what he believed was an 80-pound dog immediately leap to its feet from (a) resting position and advance quickly toward him while barking and snarling," according to a police report.



Isiah Quigg, 12, and his mother, Lisa Hardesty, play with their dog "Molly" at home. Their other dog, "Pete" was shot by a Phoenix Police officer.

"Officer Kawa, who was too far away from any vehicle to jump on top for safety, drew his weapon and pointed it at the dog while attempting to see if the dog was chained to any object."

The dog wasn't. And Kawa fired two rounds at the dog, believing the dog was going to attack, the report said.

Kawa has been involved in three dog shootings since 1999. Police found the shootings were found within policy. Police attribute the high number to the officer's involvement in drug-enforcement cases in which suspects often use dogs to guard their homes.

Force says police are happy to learn tactics to deal with dogs, since officers routinely encounter them. And most of the time, officers will reach for their firearm if attacked, he said.

"Our officers don't get paid to get bitten by dogs," Force said. "Dogs are what they are."

They're protective of their people. They're protective of their homes."

Force said that police are often the first to respond to vicious dog calls, which they consider

an emergency.

During another vicious dog call in September, an animal control officer and police officer suffered minor injuries after police shot a pit bull in a Phoenix neighborhood.

Two pit bulls were loose, but were corralled into the back yard. As the male dog tried to escape, police officers surrounded him with their guns drawn and two officers fired, Bank said.

"We have had quite a few incidents like this . . . when safety has been at risk," Bank said. "So we're excited about the training because the training will allow the officers to understand when they need to worry and when they don't."

"Our animal control officers haven't had to shoot a dog in the past 10 years. The training is going to be a really positive, wonderful thing." ♦

Fatal dog shootings by Phoenix police

1999: 8 dogs
2000: 8 dogs
2001: 13 dogs
2002: 12 dogs

**all shootings fatal*

AC&C Teaches Love & Compassion

Teaching Love and Compassion (TLC) is an innovative violence prevention program for children offered by Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. The program strives to be an integral component in preventing violence between humans and other animals. Although the program alone cannot end violence, of which the causes are complex and multi-faceted, it does provide some of the most important components for a solution. These components include developing and reinforcing values and behaviors such as compassion, empathy, responsibility, and respect for all living things.

TLC targets "at-risk" youth aged 11-13 in an intensive four-week program designed to identify and

prevent the cycle of violence through building self-esteem and increased respect for all living creatures. The youth work with AC&C staff, school teachers and a professional dog trainer to learn to care for and train shelter dogs. Additionally, they participate in interactive lessons that include public speaking, anger management, conflict resolution, and animal cruelty issues.

As students experience the conflicts and challenges of working as a group to train shelter dogs they develop compassion, responsibility, and patience. The participants learn new information and skills, and also share their newfound knowledge with younger students when they go to elementary schools to conduct presentations on

humane education and responsible animal care. In addition to the benefits gained by the students, the shelter dogs receive lots of love, socialization and training, thereby making them highly adoptable at the end of the program.

The TLC program has successfully been piloted in the Mesa School District for the past two years, and appeared in a feature story published by the Arizona Republic on May 30, 2002.

For more information about this innovative program, please contact Julie Bank, Director of Public Programs & Development at Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (602) 506-3471. ♦

"Just a note to tell you how glad I am to receive your Newsletter, and how impressed I am with all your good work."

*Marilyn Millman,
DVM and Snip and
Chip Director*



AC&C Wish List to help the animals...

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ♦ Rubber Toys - Kongs, | ♦ Small kitten bottles | ♦ Sweaters | ♦ Get-Acquainted Area | ♦ Lap top and Proxima projector |
| Budda balls | ♦ Canned food for dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens | ♦ Leashes and Collars | ♦ Gas Heaters | ♦ Overhead Projector |
| ♦ Sisal Scratching Posts | ♦ Dry food for dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens | ♦ Brushes, Nail Clippers, Grooming Clippers | ♦ Air Purification System | ♦ Shade Screens |
| ♦ Assorted Sizes of Cat and Dog Kennels | ♦ Food bowls for cats, puppies, and kittens | ♦ Disposable Litter Boxes | ♦ Epoxy floor Installation | ♦ Misters |
| ♦ Play Pens and Gates for puppies | ♦ Self-feeders and self-waterers | ♦ Kitty Litter | ♦ Hand Carts | ♦ Park Benches |
| ♦ Washable Bedding; Towels, Blankets, etc. | ♦ Bandanas | ♦ Flatware Spoons | ♦ 35 Millimeter and Digital cameras | ♦ Pick Up Truck/Van |
| ♦ Kitten and puppy formula | | <u>Larger Items</u> | ♦ Chairs and Tables | ♦ Tools |
| | | ♦ Stacked Cage Dryer | ♦ Copy Machine | |
| | | ♦ Modular Cages | | |

Holiday Food Drive Helps Homeless Animals

AC&C is asking the public to reach down in their heart and give a gift of food, blankets, or towels to a homeless animal. AC&C announces its holiday food drive beginning November 18, 2002.

"Donations of cat and dog food will help us save the lives of thousands of animals," says, Ed Boks, AC&C Director. "When you buy one can or bag of food for your pet, consider buying a second one to help homeless animals." Donated pet food meets

the special needs of animals in the shelter, pets in the AC&C foster care program, and makes food for AC&C's Pet Food Bank available to people who can't afford to feed their own pets.

AC&C also accepts donations of blankets, towels, and newspapers to help keep the animals comfortable and warm as the weather gets colder.

Donations can be dropped off at any one of our three shelters. Fi-



nancial donations can be made out to Friends of Animal Care & Control, PO Box 80739, Phoenix, AZ 85060. ♦

"Great piece on 'Home for the Holidays' in your November Newsletter! I hope you have great success with the program again this year!"

*Shawn M. Underwood
PETCO Animal Supplies
Communications
Representative*

Volunteer Program Review By Diann Meiller

"Congratulations to all of you... on the Maddies grant. That is such exciting news! How wonderful that all the hard work you have put in will really be paying off for the animals!"

*Joyce Briggs
Executive Director
PETsMART Charities*

"Just read the November Newsletter. It was a tear jerker!!! In a good way of course! Exceptional writing, but most of all great success stories.

As always, I commend the AC&C staff for all your hard work to save animals!"

*Best always,
Kim Dezelon
Brambley Hedge
Rabbit Rescue*

"I have to say your November Newsletter is the best yet. Thank you very much for sending it."

*Pat Haight
In Defense of Animals
(IDLA)
And Concerned Citizens
for Animal Welfare
(CCAW)*

It's hard to believe it's been a year since I started as the Manager of Volunteer Services with AC&C. In that time, I've met some wonderful, dedicated people among both the paid and unpaid staff that care for the animals in our shelters. A lot of hours have been put into the care of these animals and I am happy to share these fantastic numbers with everyone.

- More than 250 volunteers have attended an orientation and volunteered their time with AC&C in the past year.
- ♦ 2,354.2 volunteer hours were documented in our East Valley and West Valley Animal Care Centers and PETsMART locations.
- ♦ 1,230 volunteer hours were documented at various special

events (mobile adoptions, spay days, etc.).

- ♦ Over 100 of these volunteers are foster parents.
- ♦ With more than 1,250 animals fostered in their homes in the last year.
- ♦ 282 volunteers from the community participated in the Something Good campaign from August 11 thru September 11, 2002 representing over 425 hours of volunteer work and an incredible educational opportunity for our community about the extraordinary work performed every day by Animal Care & Control.
- ♦ The 2002 U.S. average hourly value of volunteer time is \$16.05 according to the Association for Volunteer Administration.

AC&C volunteers donated \$64,347.66 in 2002! And that's just for the time that we have documented! Now that our systems are in place we'll be able to capture every hour that our dedicated volunteers put in to supporting the work of AC&C.

With all of this it's hard to believe there is still so much to do, but we all know that reaching our goal of becoming a no-kill county will require even more participation and support from the community. If someone you know has an interest in volunteering or fostering the orientation calendar is available on the web at pets.maricopa.gov or contact me at 602-506-8133. ♦

Dear AC&C:

I want to compliment the entire staff that worked at the last Spay Day. This was my 2nd time at this event. Now both my kitties are in a better state of health. My special thanks to person who calmed my nerves as she admitted my kitty. She was great and I felt her confidence. I also want to thank the person who signed the release papers when I picked him up. Both were extremely professional. I have worked for Superior Court for 12 years and I can tell you they handled themselves as a true professionals. Thanks so much for your concern for pets. Best of luck to all in Year 2003. Sincerely,
Otis R. Evans ♦



Home for the Holidays Huge Success...

(Continued from page 1)
vember numbers.

We hope to top 22,000 adoptions in 2002. If you know someone looking for the perfect addition to the family, please encourage them to adopt during this campaign!

With respect to objective 2:
AC&C reunited 896 lost pets to their distraught families in November compared to 509 pets last November. AC&C reunites over 10,000 pets to their guardi-

ans every year. More than any other animal care and control program in the United States. This is a wonderful and critical service that AC&C provides that ensures pets are home for the holidays!

The results of objective 3 can be found in the article at the top of this page.

Although only half way through this year's campaign, it appears this year's *Home for the Holidays* is a huge success. I want

to thank all our employees, volunteers, and partners for your commitment and passion for this and all our initiatives during 2002. We could not have experienced the success we have without each one of you!

On behalf of the many thousands of pets that are home this holiday season because of you, I Thank You, and may God bless you! ♦



FRIENDS OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL NIGHT



VS.



FUND RAISER!!



Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 PM

PURCHASE A \$12 UPPER LEVEL SEAT AND \$4 GOES BACK TO FACCs

To order tickets contact the Coyotes Call Center @

480-563-PUCK (7825)

Hours: M-F 9 a.m.—6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.—4 p.m., Sun. 12 p.m.—4 p.m.

Select “1” for individual ticket sales and identify yourself as a **FACCs** Supporter

Coyotes Hockey—BELIEVE



THRIFT STORE



Friends of Animal Care & Control
FACCs

On December 1st, Friends of Animal Care & Control held a “Shop and Adopt” event at the new FACCs Thrift Store. Designed to introduce the store to the public, as well as promote adoption of pets, the event included on-site adoptions via the AC&C Pet-mobile and incredible bargains at the Thrift Store.

“It was a fun event,” said FACCs President Susana Della Maddalena, who dressed up in a dog costume to help lure shoppers and potential adopters. “All but two dogs found homes, and one cat. Plus, we had our best sales day ever at the Thrift Store.”

All proceeds generated by the Thrift Store benefit the special programs of Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. Located at 12609 N. Cave Creek Road (just north of Cactus) the Thrift Store accepts donations of furniture, appliances, adult clothing/shoes, children’s toys and clothing, kitchenware, books, computers/software and household items such as lamps, artwork bedding and accessories. For more information on volunteering or making a donation to the Thrift Store, please contact Elaine Ahern, store manager, at (602) 923-6914.

Friends of Animal Care & Control

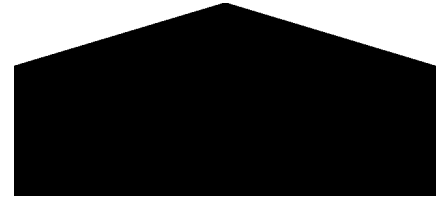
P.O. Box 80739

Phoenix, Arizona 85060-0739 ~ (602) 840-2843 ♦



FACCs Top Dogs, Susana Della Maddalena, President, and Barry Reifman, Director, encourage folks to shop and adopt at the FACCs Thrift Store event.

Phone: 602-506-2772
Fax: 602-506-2739
Email: edboks@mail.maricopa.gov



*We create happiness by bringing
pets and people together!*



2323 South 35th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009

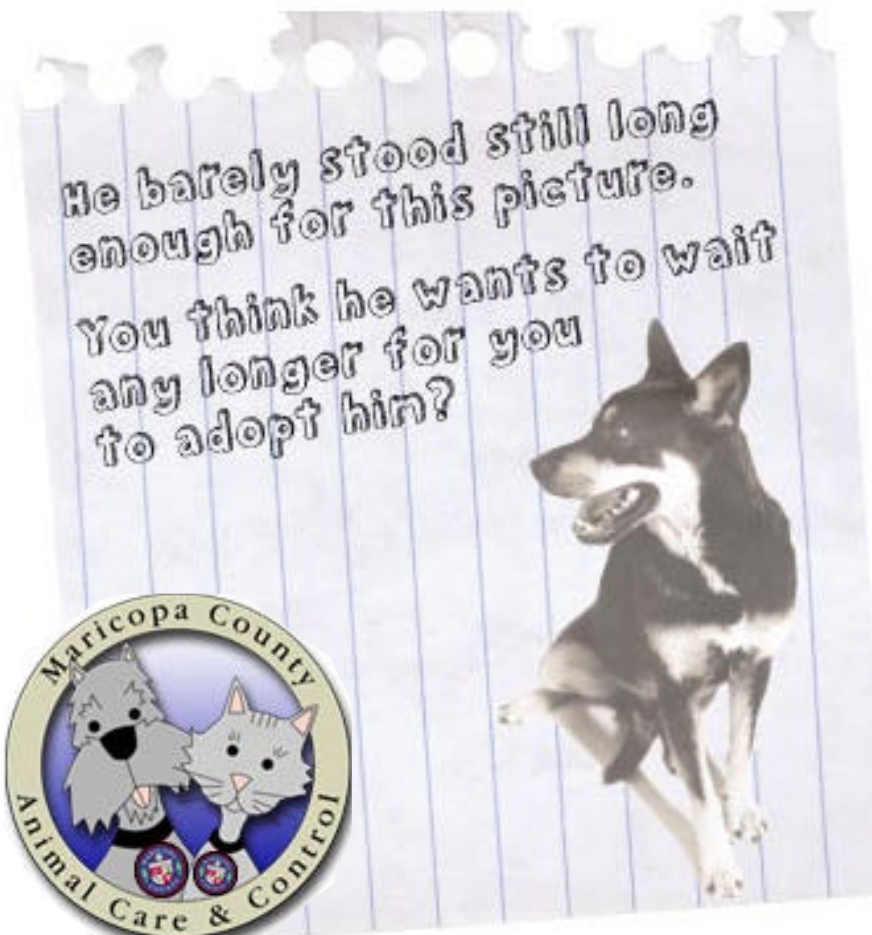
**Maricopa County
Animal Care & Control**

Stuff Your Holiday Stockings with a 2003 Desert Dogs & Cool Cats of Maricopa County Calendar!

Looking for that unique holiday gift? Delight your family and friends with a **Desert Dogs & Cool Cats** of Maricopa County calendar - plus you'll be helping save homeless dogs and cats in Maricopa County.

The calendar features charming photos of Maricopa County dogs and cats, several of whom were adopted from Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. It is available for a purchase price of \$10 at all area PETSMART stores and at the FACCs on line retail store (www.teamshoppremiums.com/mcacc).

So help out a homeless dog or cat for the holidays, and get a great gift as well! ♦



Adopt a pet from Animal Care & Control today!
602-506-PETS www.pets.maricopa.gov

